

HISTORIC MAPS OF ARMENIA

The Cartographic Heritage

By Rouben Galichian


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Armenia as a cultural and political entity has existed for over 3,000 years. Buffeted for the last 1,000 years between Russians, Turks, Persians and the various peoples of the Caucasus, Armenians have remarkably survived the looming presence of much more powerful neighbours. The existence of the country has been recorded by map-makers since the beginnings of cartography - including the various configurations of the borders of the Armenian homeland which have shifted backwards and forwards with the political fortunes of its peoples.

This book, for the first time, brings together an extraordinary collection of maps from the earliest times into the modern era. It reproduces the most important representations of Armenia, from the oldest version - a Babylonian clay tablet of the sixth century BC - to the renderings of Greek and Alexandrian cartographers, the early Christian maps as well as versions from Ottoman and other Islamic centres. Among the identified sixteenth and seventeenth century European maps, this book includes works by Gerardus Mercator, Abraham Ortelius, John Senex, Guillaume DeLisle and many others.

With his detailed descriptions of the 127 maps and his introductory text, Rouben Galichian has produced a work of reference and artistic distinction, which will prove an essential tool to all who follow the history of Armenia, the Caucasus, the Ottoman and Iranian worlds, as well as to collectors and enthusiasts of cartography.

This will undoubtedly fill an important gap in knowledge on the representation of Armenia and the whole Near East. - Claude Mutafian, Professor of History, Sorbonne

Rouben Galichian is a private scholar and collector, who over a lifetime has become a specialist in the maps of Armenia.

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